

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1660
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Plastic Pollution

1660. SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the response of Government to the recent study stating that India has become largest plastic polluter in the world;
- (b) the plan of Government to address five key sources of plastic pollution, including uncollected waste, littering, inefficient collection systems, uncontrolled disposal and rejects from sorting and reprocessing;
- (c) whether Government is collaborating with other nations or international bodies to adopt best practices and innovations in reducing plastic waste and pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government is supporting financially and technically State Governments in handling the plastic waste; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a): Several reports are published on plastic production and plastic waste generation. These reports vary in their country-wise projections on account of data sources used and assumptions and methodologies used for making projections. Based upon information provided by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) to Central Pollution Control Board, the plastic waste generated in the country for the year 2022-23 is 4.13 million Tonnes.

(b) to (d): The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, as amended, provide the statutory framework for environmentally sound plastic waste management in the country. The rules mandate urban local bodies and gram panchayats to undertake plastic waste management which includes collection and processing of plastic waste. Further, the urban local bodies and gram panchayats are also mandated to ensure that littering of plastic waste and its uncontrolled disposal does not take place.

The implementation, of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) on plastic packaging notified in 2022 under Plastic Waste Management Rules, will allow for further development of the waste management sector covering collection, segregation, processing of plastic waste across the country. Around 2,714 Plastic Waste Processors (PWPs) have been registered till date under

EPR Guidelines and around 114 lakh tonnes of plastic packaging waste has been processed as per information available on the Centralized EPR portal on plastic packaging. The implementation of ban on identified single use plastic items, which have high littering potential and low utility, with effect from 1st July, 2022, coupled with implementation of extended producer responsibility on plastic packaging will reduce pollution caused by littered and unmanaged plastic waste.

Bilateral and multilateral projects on plastic waste management and related themes are undertaken for implementation, as per requirement. The best practices and innovations emerging from the projects are made available appropriately for wider dissemination and use by stakeholders.

(e) & (f): Under Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (SBM-U 2.0), central assistance is provided inter alia for setting up of waste processing facilities such as material recovery facilities (MRFs), transfer stations, Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) processing facilities, plastic waste processing facilities as per scheme guidelines. Additional Central assistance is also provided under Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen phase II for establishment of Plastic Waste Management Units in rural areas.
